

MILITIA WILL REMAIN AT FONTANET OVER SUNDAY

Visitors Overrun the Village and Make Work of Guarding Property Difficult

MILITIAMAN FIRES AT INTRUDERS

SHERIFF KEEPS POSSE OF DEPUTIES ON GUARD IN CONJUNCTION WITH TROOPS—SALOONS CLOSED—RUMORS OF THIEVING UNFOUNDED—COMPLAINT OF TRAINS SPEEDING.

KNOWN DEAD.

The following is the latest revised list of dead in the Fontanet wreck. Some of them are unidentified, but were buried by the authorities under the names of missing men:

- A. B. Monahan, general superintendent, Fontanet, aged 41.
- Mrs. A. B. Monahan, Fontanet.
- Mrs. Ethel Taylor, niece of Mrs. Monahan.
- George Justice.
- Henry Harrington, electrician at mill.
- Sylvester Dial, aged 48.
- Samuel Nevins.
- Harry Yates.
- Will Dalton, aged 17, died at hospital.
- John L. Dial, aged 17.
- James Biggs, aged 50 employed in mill yards.
- Earl Wood.
- W. E. C. Cross, Rosedale, aged 21, died at St. Anthony's.
- Harvey Chandler, Fontanet, died at St. Anthony's.
- T. J. Kellum, Wilmington, Del., burned in office near mill, with Superintendent Monahan.
- Samuel Harris.
- Henry Cunningham, aged 38, employed in mill.
- L. M. Carroll.
- Frank Ingalls.
- Sam Ingalls.
- Fred Cross, died at St. Anthony's.
- August Girard.
- Frank Cottrell.
- Edward Nevins.
- Hugh Miller.
- J. H. Gibbs.
- Merle Webster.

Sheriff William Horsley went to Fontanet early this morning and appointed a force of deputies, who will take charge of the mill property and relieve the state militia, which is now on duty there. The following are the names of the men appointed: Alfred Emerson, Ike McDonald, Pearly Cauthers, Dan McKellett, Harvey Seward and William Cotherall.

The soldiers will not leave the town but will remain on guard duty about the residence district. Company A of Indianapolis, which was expected to arrive in Fontanet last night did not come and orders have been issued that the company be not called out, as the deputies appointed by the sheriff will be able to handle the situation at the mill.

Major R. C. Conde, who is in charge of the soldiers, went to Coal Bluff and found the saloons closed tight, as had been ordered. A few intoxicated persons were found, but it is said that it is impossible to keep whisky from being smuggled into the town by outside parties.

While doing guard duty Wednesday afternoon at the bridge near the power mill Corporal R. A. Werneke, 105 South Fourteenth street, a member of Company B, I. N. G., was confronted by two men, who insisted in going into the hollow where the mill was situated. Werneke halted the men and told them that they could go no further. He repeated his orders a second time, and as the men paid no attention and attempted to pass him he leveled his gun in firing position. At this move the men turned and ran. Mr. Werneke fired one shot. Neither of the men were hit. The incident was the only one of its kind reported by the soldiers, although the sightseers have been persistent in efforts to get close to the ruins in violation of the strict orders which have been issued to allow no one to pass the picket lines thrown about the site.

Capt. Dudley, commanding Company B, heard several reports of persons entering the houses at night. It was reported to him last night that someone was in the house of J. R. Steward, but on investigating found that no one was in the house and that nothing had been disturbed.

The citizens of Fontanet have requested that the soldiers remain in the town over Sunday to guard their property against the sightseers, who will flock to the scene of the explosion on Sunday. The soldiers intended to return to their homes before then, but the officers have consented to hold them on guard.

RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF THE SPEED OF BIG FOUR TRAINS.

Many complaints are being made by residents of Fontanet of the Big Four trains running through the town

at a high rate of speed. The trains, it is said, endanger the lives of the residents and those who have gone there for the purpose of viewing the ruins. The Big Four trains have been running behind time of late and it has been found necessary to put on all the speed possible to keep them moving on time. The residents of the village are of the opinion that the time could be made up at some place else along the line and say that the company should slow their trains as they pass through the town as a measure of safety to those who are there. Large crowds are about the depot at all times and at the crossing near the depot. A clear view of the track cannot be had and the trains are upon the crossing within a moment after they are sighted and it is feared that someone will be killed in an effort to get out of danger.

MEN ARE AT WORK CLEARING MILL SITE.

A force of twelve men with teams began to clear the debris from the scene of the explosion. It is thought that the ruins will be cleaned up with-

in a week, although some are doubtful if the task can be completed in that time.

There are still a large number of sightseers in Fontanet today, but not so many as were there there Wednesday and Thursday. The train from this city was crowded this morning and many buggies are in the town. A large number of people from the vicinity went to Fontanet today to attend the funerals of those buried this morning.

MUST HURRY WORK BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER.

The news that Governor Hanly had appointed a commission to visit Fontanet and investigate the needs of the people was received here with great satisfaction. There is no doubt that many thousand dollars will be required to restore the wrecked town and any aid the people of the state may render will be appreciated.

Haste is necessary in order that the damaged houses may be put in habitable condition before cold weather sets in.

The sound of the hammer continues to be heard throughout the town. Many of the homeless people are making temporary repairs, putting off permanent reconstruction until they obtain money to rebuild their homes.

TRUST CONFERENCE ATTRACTS NOTICE

MANY INTERESTS TO BE REPRESENTED AT NEXT WEEK'S CONFERENCE AT CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 18.—Widespread interest is being manifested in the conference on industrial combination, National Civic federation. The attendance week under the auspices of the National Civic federation. The attendance will include delegates named by the governors of every state and territory of the union and representatives of national labor, financial, economic, agricultural, manufacturing, trade and shippers' organizations, chambers of commerce and boards of trade.

The first day of the conference will be given over to a discussion of the problems involved in the controversies between the state and federal government, respecting jurisdiction over interstate commerce, now pending in Minnesota, Alabama, Arkansas and North Carolina.

The corporation will be the subject for consideration on the second day, and on the third and fourth days there will be discussions of the just and practicable limit of restriction and regulation, federal and state, of combinations in transportation, production, distribution and labor. The advisability of amending the Sherman anti-trust act will be exhaustively discussed.

New Manager For Varieties—Ned Alvord, formerly connected with the Danville (Ill.) Press, has been appointed local manager of the Varieties and arrived this morning to assume his new position. He will look after the press work for both the Lyric and Varieties.

MORE DEAD ARE BURIED TODAY

THREE LAID AWAY WHOM RELATIVES CAN NOT IDENTIFY—FREAKS OF EXPLOSION.

Curiosity Seekers Are Making Themselves Obnoxious—Orders Issued To Arrest Them—Terre Haute and Brazil Doing Most For the Sufferers.

This afternoon the charred bodies of Hugh Miller, Frank Cottrell, Samuel Nevins and J. H. Gibbs were buried. Only one of the bodies that of Samuel Nevins was positively identified and while the relatives of the others refused to admit the identities of the bodies, yet they were buried under those names. Nevins was identified by marks on his hands.

Though the fires burning in the wreckage of the former mill site have been smoldering for a day or so as if all the fuel had burned out yet the flames started up again today and with renewed energy were shooting up ten or fifteen feet high.

Many queer freaks of the explosion are coming to light from time to time. Heavy timbers were shot through the air and went hurling thousands of feet away. People were driven through the walls of their houses with slight injury and all of the curious freaks of fortune or fate that have come to light are being recounted. Today while looking among the wreckage two wagons were found near the site of the mill that were uninjured. For some unknown reason they escaped the force of the powder and bear no marks of injury.

George Justice, one of the dead, had come to the mill and had made application for the position of timekeeper. He was told by an official that there was no vacancy at the time but that he should come back the next day. He had just turned his back to walk away when the explosion came.

Mayor Shattuck of Brazil, was at Fontanet today and offered any assistance that his city could give. It was reported that there was urgent need of a load of bed clothing and underwear. It was understood that efforts would be made there to get the goods.

Captain Dudley of company B, has written to Mayor Lyons that Terre Haute and Brazil are the only two towns that are offering material aid to the sufferers and they are doing all that could be expected.

Souvenir hunters have forgotten all principles of decency and are invading homes and even gathering scraps of human remains to carry away as relics of the disaster. Orders have been given to arrest all such vandals on suspicion. It has not been forgotten here of the barbarous manner in which the remains of the murderer Ward were gathered from the ash heap at the west end of the bridge some years ago to be carried away and people are filled with disgust at such barbarism.

The Dupont people, who are on the grounds, are giving all of their attention to the rehabilitation of the town and positively refuse at this time to discuss whether they will rebuild their plant at Fontanet or not.

The story is told of the Duponts that the family has long been engaged in the manufacture of explosives and that where any of them have been engaged they have never asked employees to perform any dangerous work that they would not do themselves and that as a result several of the family have met death in a violent manner.

"GOOD-BYE EVE" WERE LAST WORDS

YOUNG SEATTLE WORKMAN, FIRED BY RELIGIOUS FERVOR, COMMITS SUICIDE.

Sings "The Fire of Heavenly Love is Burning in My Soul" at an Evangelistic Meeting and Then Fires a Bullet Into His Brain.

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 18.—With the words "Good bye, Eve," Edward Neil Kelly, a young workman, drew a revolver and fired a bullet through his head on a platform of the Apostolic Faith church here last night.

The girl he referred to was sitting in the audience within ten feet of the young man when he fired the fatal shot. Kelly died at the hospital half an hour later.

Kelly, who was 19 years old, met Eve Kestersen, a 15-year-old school girl, at evangelist meetings held here in the early part of September, and a week ago they became engaged. They were to be married on Thanksgiving day.

As one of the speakers at the church finished testifying "in foreign tongues," which is part of the belief of this creed, Kelly arose with the words "It is my turn next." He then started singing "The Fire of Heavenly Love is Burning in My Soul." As the last words were finished he drew a gun, turned toward the girl, said "Good bye," and fired the fatal shot.

DUPONTS WILL REBUILD TOWN

Powder Trust Will Look After Repairing All Damages to Town of Fontanet.

Declaration Made That Powder Mill Will Be Rebuilt on the Present Site.

TOWN IS IN MOURNING

First Day of Funerals Brought Full Realization of Extent of Calamity.

Arrangements for Burial of Dead Carried Forward Without Least Hindrance.

TWO MISSING RETURN

Decrease Thus Made in List of Reported Dead--Injured Doing as Well as Possible--Relief Work at Scene of Explosion Being Carried on Systematically--Militia Soon to Depart--Crowds Hamper Relief Work

YESTERDAY AT FONTANET. Alfred Dupont arrived at Fontanet. Says powder mill will be rebuilt and that houses of the city will be repaired and rebuilt at the company's expense. Death list decreases by the appearance of men who were reported among the missing. Crowds hamper work of relief committee. Remains of another victim are found in ruins. Few as by a few victims are held. Deputies under Sheriff Horsley will rule city after departure of the militia.

Clearing of the debris from the site of the powder mill ruins at Fontanet will commence immediately and the erection of a new plant will be in the course of construction in a short time, according to the statements of Alfred Dupont and Mr. Connable, representatives of the main office of New York city, who are in Fontanet yesterday.

The powder mill will be rebuilt and the damaged houses repaired and the destroyed buildings will be built anew at the entire expense of the Lafranch Powder Company. This is the substance of the statement made by Alfred Dupont of New York city at Fontanet yesterday.

The reconstruction of the city has begun in earnest. As soon as building material can be procured new houses will loom up in every direction said one citizen. What is most needed now, said another, is window glass to replace the shattered panes. Following the shock in Fontanet there was not a whole pane of glass in the city.

Every express train is bringing boxes of glass, but the dealers had no idea of the amount needed and orders for more glass were telephoned to Terre Haute yesterday. "Headquarters for Glass" is the first sign a person will notice upon entering Fontanet by the Big Four route.

Town Draped in Mourning.

Fontanet was draped in mourning yesterday and will continue to be for several days. The first burial of the victims of the horrible catastrophe took place yesterday afternoon and renewed the heartbreaking scenes. Despite the fact that all Fontanet has been a scene of sorrow since the calamity swept over the village Tuesday morning, the most touching scenes of all was witnessed at noon yesterday when several of the victims were sent to their former homes for burial.

The list of the dead was reduced by the appearance of Addison Webster, Frank Cotthrell, William Hodge, Frank Dial, George Hodge, John Bobo and Mrs. Audrey Ousley.

Webster and Cotthrell appeared at Fontanet yesterday morning. The two men had been making a search for their sons, who had been killed in the explosion. Frank Cotthrell, son of Samuel Cotthrell, has not been found. The other father, Addison Webster, was more fortunate than Mr. Cotthrell, finding his son on the hill above the valley, where the powder mill was situated. The bodies of Sylvester and Don Dial were sent to St. Elmo, Ill. and for re-

Scenes in Fontanet and Men Active



REVISED LIST OF DEAD.

Appearance of some men reported dead reduced the list of fatalities in the Fontanet disaster. From investigations of the coroner the following list is believed to be complete.

A. B. MONAHAN, general superintendent.
MRS. A. B. MONAHAN of Fontanet.
MRS. ETHEL TAYLOR, niece of Mrs. Monahan.
GEORGE JUSTICE.
GEORGE BOBO.
WILLIAM SHERILL, employed in glass room.
HENRY HARRINGTON, electrician at mill.
SYLVESTER DIAL, aged 48.
SAMMY NEVINS.
HARRY YATES.
WILL DALTON, aged 17, died at hospital.
SAM COCKRELL.
SYLVESTER DON DIAL, aged 17.
JAMES BIGGS, aged 50, employed in mill yard.
EARL WOOD.
W. E. C. CRESS, Rosedale, aged 25, died at St. Anthony's.
HARRY CHANDLER, Fontanet, died at St. Anthony's.
T. J. KELLUM, Wilmington, Del., burned in office near mill, with Superintendent Monahan.
SAMUEL MORRIS.
HENRY CUNNINGHAM, aged 38, employed in mill.
P. J. CARROLL.
FRANK INGALLS.
SAM INGALLS.
FRED CRESS, died at St. Anthony's.
AUGUST GIRARD.
FRED NEVINS.
MRS. OUBLEY.
EDWARD NEVINS.
MERLE WEBSTER.
Two unidentified.

Crowd was estimated at 12,000, and Wednesday it is said that fully 10,000 visitors were in the destroyed town. Yesterday more than 5,000 visited the scene.

Teams to Move Furniture.

The Terre Haute Brewing Company and farmers from the surrounding vicinity have volunteered the use of their teams and wagons, and are moving the furniture from the demolished houses to places of safety.

Horses and mules killed by the explosion and by pistol balls to relieve their suffering were buried yesterday in order to prevent any illness from the stench.

A meeting of Major Conde and the miners' union of Fontanet was held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. At this time Sheriff Horsley asked for volunteers among the miners for guards after the dismissal of the militia, which probably will occur Monday.

At present the people of Fontanet are not in any great need of anything except underwear and clothing of all sorts for children of 10 years and under. Some requests for had clothing

have been made. It is the policy of the relief committee to encourage gifts of money rather than supplies. With the money the committee can obtain any kind of supplies necessary from here. They are grateful to be sure, of any kind of assistance that comes.

A shattered body was taken from the ruins yesterday. It was impossible to identify the person, but it is believed that the remains are those of August Girard. Girard's rule, which he was driving, was found yesterday, but no trace of the man could be ascertained.

Many People Are Fed.

"We fed about 300 people at Fontanet yesterday," said Mr. Ball, chairman of the citizens' relief committee, last night. We expect this number to decrease steadily as the houses are repaired.

"The people are now destitute, and would be boarding themselves right now if they had access to cooking utensils and a place to do the cooking. The majority of the bread-earners of the town are well employed in the mines and other industries and will get along very well as soon as the houses are made inhabitable again."

The local committee, composed of Mr. Ball as chairman, George M. Crane and Lewis J. Cox, went to Fontanet early yesterday morning and held a conference with the committee there. James E. Johnson, Thomas Wolford, McKillup and Rex Muncie, Sheriff Horsley also was present.

"After talking the matter over," said Mr. Ball, "we decided to go to Major Conde and request that the militia remain on the scene until after Sunday. We could get along without the boys Friday and Saturday, but are afraid that the crowds which will be on the ground Sunday will be beyond the control of the plain-clothes deputies."

Want Troops Over Sunday.

Mr. Ball said that the Major has communicated with Governor Hanly in regard to the matter. Mayor Lyons and Sheriff Horsley have also sent a written request to the Governor asking that the troops remain over Sunday.

"The troops are anxious to get away," said Mr. Ball. "They have left their desks and business, and one can not blame them for wanting to get home. We proposed to Major Conde that they be allowed to disband Friday and Saturday and return Sunday. We do not know what will be done yet."

"The committee was assured by C. V. Ferriday, superintendent of the middle division of the Dupont Company," continued Mr. Ball, "that the company would not object to the people going into their houses and getting clothes and bedding. The people were afraid that if they entered their houses that they might thus injure their chances of recovering damages."

"Mr. Ferriday assured us that this would not be the case. He told us that the company intended to employ a bunch of carpenters and masons and rebuild the houses irrespective of their owners. He said that this will be done in all possible haste."

The committee will return to Fon-

Don't Hamper Relief Work

Persons out of idle curiosity, who have been swarming into Fontanet, have inadvertently, no doubt, hampered greatly the work of aiding the sufferers from the terrible disaster of Tuesday. That there is any disposition to retard this work none will admit, but at the same time the work has been handicapped and purely through the curious spirit of many of the sightseers.

The Star is requested to ask that sightseers curb their curiosity and endeavor to aid in every way possible the work of giving relief to the destitute and the suffering. A little thoughtfulness will help greatly. Please think of this if you MUST go to Fontanet on a sightseeing tour.

Fontanet today and hold another conference. It is said that the distribution of supplies is being conducted smoothly and the people are being well nourished.

Mayor Lyons accompanied the committee and Sheriff Horsley to Fontanet yesterday. The party made the trip in an automobile. The mayor was accompanied by the awful wreck. He said that he would spare no pains in his official capacity to relieve the situation.

"I intend to send a squad of patrolmen to help handle the crowd which is expected Sunday," he said. "Of course it would be better if the people would stay away, but human interest draws them to the scene and we must make the best of matters."

State Factory Inspector William Blakely, who began an investigation of the explosion yesterday, was able to make but little headway. He came to Terre Haute last night to examine the injured men in the hospitals.

The records in Mr. Blakely's office show that the plant employed 80 men, working 70 of them on the day shift.

The plant was last inspected by R. A. Hamilton, deputy factory inspector, on June 8, and pronounced by him in a safe condition at that time. Several insurance adjusters are appraising the property.

The citizens of the town expect the fire insurance companies to resist payment because of the fact that the houses were destroyed by neither fire nor a cyclone. Most of the residents carried insurance.

KEY-POUNDERS WANT BACK

Strikers in Many Cities Apply for Old Places With Company.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—Striking telegraphers to the number of 26 applied for reinstatement in the Western Division of the Western Union Telegraph Company today, according to an official announcement made by the company. Other applications were 15 in New York city, seven at West Oakland, Cal., and all of the force at Columbia, S. C., asked to be restored to their former places.

YOUNG CRIMINALS CONFESS

Boys at Dayton (O.) Declare They Set Fire to Man's Barn.

COLUMBUS, O., Oct. 17.—Deputy Fire Marshal Newman of Dayton reports here that he has secured the confession of Virgil and Milton Garner, two boys aged 13 and 16 years, that they set fire to and burned the barn of A. T. Corbett, near Cable, in Champaign County. They burned the barn because Corbett repudiated them for setting fire to a haystack. They will be sent to the reform farm.

The Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday and Saturday. Terre Haute and vicinity. Fair and cold. Friday. Saturday. Fair and cold.

Indiana. Fair and colder Friday. Saturday fair, fresh north-west wind. Illinois. Fair and colder Friday. Saturday fair, fresh north-west wind.

Bureau's Record.

7 a. m. 16 2 p. m. 55 9 p. m. 44.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Max. Min. Weather.

Atlanta, Ga. 55 40 Cloudy.

Birmingham, Ala. 55 40 Clear.

Chicago, Ill. 55 40 Clear.

Cincinnati, O. 55 40 Clear.

Cleveland, Ohio 55 40 Pt. Cloudy.

El Paso, Texas 55 40 Pt. Cloudy.

Galveston, Texas 55 40 Clear.

Indianapolis, Ind. 55 40 Clear.

Kansas City, Mo. 55 40 Clear.

Louisville, Ky. 55 40 Clear.

Nashville, Tenn. 55 40 Pt. Cloudy.

New Orleans, La. 55 40 Cloudy.

New York, N. Y. 55 40 Clear.

St. Louis, Mo. 55 40 Clear.

Washington, D. C. 55 40 Cloudy.

Community focus

Fontanet, Vigo's bean town

Big bang rocked village in early days

By Dave Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Fontanet, Ind. — People in this town are still talking about the big bang that happened 75 years ago. In this town's case, the big bang is all fact and no theory.

The big bang refers to how Fontanet was flattened, not how the universe came to be.

"Lands, yes, we were just talking about this the other day," said Clara Stuthard who's most of her 80-plus years in this northeast Vigo County village of some 350 people. She refers to that unforgettable morning of Oct. 16, 1907, when the DuPont Powder Mill was blown sky high.

It had to be one of the biggest blowouts in the history of the Wabash Valley. There were four blasts starting at 9:15 a.m. that day and lasting more than 90 minutes. An overheated shaft igniting powder was listed as the cause of the blast.

One of the four blasts was 300 tons of black powder going off. The fourth explosion was the finale and occurred when four tons of dynamite ignited. Twenty-seven people died and many more were injured.

The shock of the blast was felt in Terre Haute and Brazil. The explosion was even recorded on a seismograph in Ohio. One of the blasts sent a chunk of lumber flying through a window and stuck it into a wall — in Montezuma 20 miles away.

Four students of Fontanet Elementary School were found four miles from town after one blast. They couldn't explain how they got there. An estimated 500 homes and many businesses were destroyed in the village.

After the dust had settled and things got somewhat back to normal, DuPont officials told the townspeople they wanted to rebuild the powder mill. The general feeling was that one disaster was plenty, and the people petitioned to keep the plant from being rebuilt. Fontanet was never again the prosperous town it once was.

"My mother, father, sister and I were in Terre Haute and went to see the disaster on a train baggage car," said Roy Stuthard, who was just 4 at the time. "My uncle was working in the powder mill that day," he continued, "and they never found his body."

Different aspects of the tragedy stuck with different people who were alive at the time. Stuthard never forget once incident that occurred at the elementary school.

"A beam came down on the school teacher during one of the blasts and popped one of the eyes out of her head," he explained. "They put it back in and she was able to teach again."

Area poet M. J. Lake even wrote a piece on the great disaster. "I wouldn't give that poem up for nothing," said Mrs. Stuthard, who's kept the poem for years.

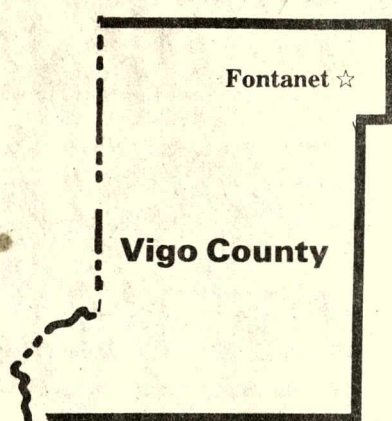
The lengthy poem contains these lines: "The town was crushed like an egg shell" and "It all came in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye."

There's another thing that comes to mind when people mention Fontanet...the annual bean dinner that takes place the last weekend of August. It's quite an affair.

Sixty army veterans of the Civil War put the first one on in 1890. They decided to have beans, hardtack and coffee...chow they'd eaten while serving in the war between the states.

The dinner drew a couple hundred people and always took place in the powder mill woods. The site of the gathering was moved to Holloway Grove in 1907 after the big explosion. It's been there ever since.

"Each year we cook up 2,200 pounds of beans and season it with 300 pounds of bacon," explained Bob Haslett, associated with the Fontanet Bean Dinner Association the past 14 years. Several thousand people now show up for the affair, which includes a dance, carnival, boxing show events in the



Around town...

Kay and Jim Carter (above) are getting The Mercantile ready to open for business Tuesday. It will sell grocery and deli items and gasoline. The Carters own the business with Ron and Donna Wilkinson. Fontanet (see map, left) lies in northeastern Vigo County near the Parke and Clay county lines. The town isn't really going to the dogs, it's just that these dogs (below), owned by Bill Camp and being watched over by Kenneth Price, found a tug of war over a stick good exercise on a brisk winter day.



"Dusting" the snow: Betty Mattox James sweeps funeral home walk.



Ready for the fireplace: Clifford Cox gathers armload of wood to fight off early December cold spell.

festivities.

"It's the biggest annual event in Fontanet," said Haskett. The beans are free, and Haskett said the line for serving generally begins forming around 5:30 a.m.

"My grandparents helped cook the first bean dinner at Fontanet," said Clara Stuthard of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Foxworthy.

Fontanet's history goes back to 1877 when a post office was established at the site in a town called Hunter. In 1881, the name of the village was changed to Fontanet Station after a spring that flowed through the area. It later became Fontanet. Population peak of this Nevins Township village was 1,500 in 1889.

Today, there are few businesses in Fontanet. Paul Cox is postmaster at a nice new office dedicated May 17, 1983. There's

the small Mattox funeral home, Meg's Tavern run by Bill and Etta Camp, John Turner's welding shop and G.B. Machine Shop operated by Mike Goda. The Godas also have Greenleaf Co., which sells farm supplies. Joe Banyas is a semi-retired barber in the village.

The downtown area is highlighted by the new post office. Next to it are three tan brick buildings constructed by Harry Stultz several decades ago. The bar is in one; the other two are vacant.

Clayton Turner ran a general store in Fontanet from 1923 to 1973. These days, he keeps busy part-time by fixing flats.

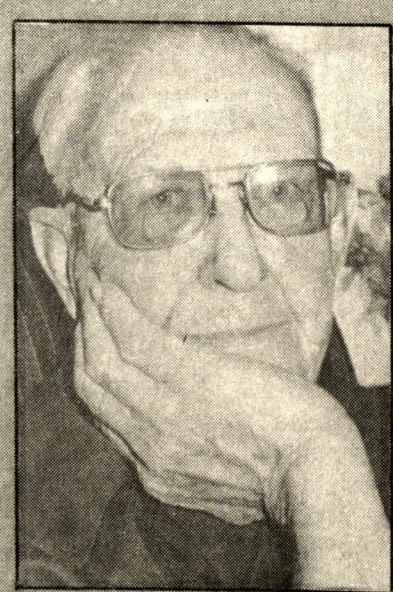
"This was quite a mining town at one time," he said. "There were at least half a dozen large ones around." He said the mines started playing out during the 1920s. Turner said at one time there were

13 or 14 saloons in town.

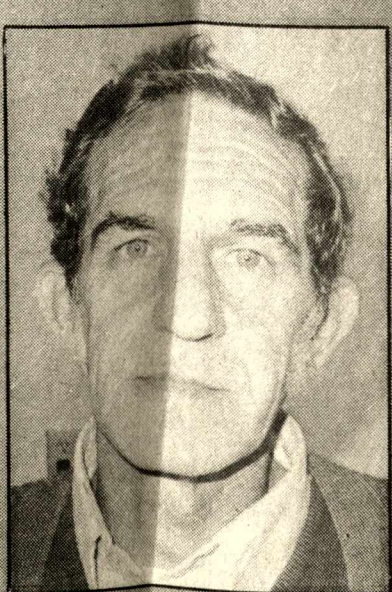
Fontanet High School became Nevins High School back in 1928, said the retiree. Nevins closed its doors when Terre Haute North High School opened in 1971. There were numerous elementary schools in the area.

With Ed Dean as coach, the Bean Towners won the Terre Haute sectional in the early 1930s. He recalled some of the outstanding individuals on the teams as including Jack Menelly and the Mann brothers, Bill and Morris. "Another good coach was Whitey Hoffman," recalled Turner.

In recent summers, Fontanet has had a basketball celebrity nearby. Larry Bird, thought by many to be the world's greatest basketball player, has often visited his friend Max Gibson, who's lived in the Fontanet area many years.



ROY STUTHARD
Was 4 when big bang hit town; lost uncle



PAUL COX
Presides over post office opened in 1983



CLAYTON TURNER
Ran general store here for 50 years



War rations recalled: The end of August is the time when the bean pots go a-boilin' at the town's bean dinner, which draws scores of hungry visitors.

Vigo County Public Library